

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA25 | Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Community data (CM-001-025)
Community

November 2013

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Department
for Transport

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The community appendices for the Castle Bromwich and Bromford community forum area (CFA 25) comprise:
- community impact assessment record sheets for construction (Section 2); and
 - open space survey results (Section 3).
- 1.1.2 No significant effects have been identified on community resources in CFA25 during the operation of the Proposed Scheme; therefore there are no community impact assessment record sheets for operation.
- 1.1.3 Maps referred to throughout the community appendix are contained in the Volume 5 Community map book.

2 Community impact assessment record sheets - construction

2.1 Park Hall nature reserve

Table 1: Park Hall nature reserve community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Park Hall nature reserve
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Open space
Resource description/profile	Park Hall nature reserve covers a total area of 36.6ha and comprises of grassland, wetland and pools along the former route of the River Tame. Located to the north of the M6 and south of Castle Vale, the reserve is open to the public by prior arrangement only. Volunteering activities, wildlife events, school visits and guided walks are also provided at site by the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, who manage the site.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary loss of land	<p>Impact: during construction, an area of approximately 290,350m² will be required temporarily. Land will be required for the construction of the Water Orton cutting, Parkhall Wood embankment, Langley Hill embankment and River Tame viaduct which will carry the route through the nature reserve. On-site construction traffic routes will be created through the site from the B4118 Birmingham Road in the east and Castle Bromwich Business Park in the west. Three satellite construction compounds with storage areas (River Tame viaduct satellite compound, Plants Brook underbridge satellite compound, Dunlop Carrier Channel underbridge satellite compound) will be located within the nature reserve for a period of between three to four years.</p> <p>The nature reserve will be closed to visitors throughout the construction period, and is expected to reopen by 2025.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately eight years.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	High: the nature reserve will be completely closed and unusable for up to eight years during the construction period.
Relevant receptors	Users of the nature reserve including schools, education and volunteer visits.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	Medium: Park Hall nature reserve plays a role in educating people about the natural environment as well as providing a recreational resource. Access to the nature reserve is available by prior appointment only and includes: regular volunteer days with up to five per week; corporate volunteering days with 150 visitors per year; wildlife events with 150 visitors per year; school groups with 375 visitors per year and informal visits with around 20 visitors per week. There are other nature reserves in the local area, although they do not have the same ecological value and may be visited by different groups of people.
Significance rating of effect	Major adverse significant: closure of the nature reserve for the duration of works.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Major adverse significant: closure of the nature reserve for the duration of works.

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Impact 2: permanent loss of land	<p>Impact: an area of land approximately 31,000m² (8% of the total nature reserve) will be required permanently. The Proposed Scheme will enter the eastern part of the nature reserve through the Water Orton cutting before passing onto the River Tame viaduct across the realigned River Tame and then onto the Langley Hill embankment adjacent to and parallel with the Birmingham and Derby line. The River Tame will be re-routed from its existing channel further south through the nature reserve, remaining roughly parallel to the Birmingham and Derby line and the route of the Proposed Scheme.</p> <p>Additional permanent construction works within Park Hall nature reserve will include: the provision of a realigned access track from the B4118 Birmingham Road; the realignment of a National Grid overhead power line; re-routing of an oil pipeline; re-routing of the Dunlop Carrier Channel; erection of retaining walls; and the excavation and re-grading of an extensive replacement floodplain storage area across the centre of the site.</p> <p>Following the completion of construction works, the nature reserve will be replanted with marshy grassland and scrub. It is estimated that the nature reserve will re-open to visitors in 2025 once these works are complete.</p> <p>Duration of impact: permanent.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Low: functionality will be partly impaired whilst the site re-establishes, after which the resource can continue to be used for its intended purpose.
Relevant receptors	Users of the nature reserve including schools, education and volunteer visits.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	Medium: Park Hall nature reserve plays a role in educating people about the natural environment as well as providing a recreational resource. Access to the nature reserve is available by prior appointment only and includes: regular volunteer days with up to five per week; corporate volunteering days with 150 visitors per year; wildlife events with 150 visitors per year; school groups with 375 visitors per year and informal visits with around 20 visitors per week. There are other nature reserves in the local area, although they do not have the same ecological value and may be visited by different groups of people.
Significance rating of effect	Minor adverse, not significant: once re-established, the nature reserve can continue to function for its intended purpose.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	Discussions have been held with the Environment Agency and Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust regarding the restoration of Park Hall nature reserve. This engagement will continue with the aim of developing a mutually acceptable restoration plan for the site.
Residual effect significance rating	Minor adverse, not significant: once re-established, the nature reserve can continue to function for its intended purpose.

2.2 Farnborough Road Park

Table 2: Farnborough Road Park community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Farnborough Road Park
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Open space
Resource description/profile	Farnborough Road Park provides large areas of parkland in the south-eastern extent of Castle Vale, providing 5.2ha of public open space including a local equipped area for play (LEAP), outdoor gym, skate park, four adult football pitches, two junior football pitches, four mini football pitches, one floodlit court (currently disused) five picnic areas, seating areas, litterbins and car parking. The space is very well used, with particularly high usage of the play area during the summer.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary loss of land	<p>Impact: an area of approximately 8,100m² (16% of the total park) will be lost temporarily in the south-western corner of the park. A footpath in the western corner will be required to provide vehicular access to utility realignment works to a Severn Trent Water sewer pipe outside of the park boundary. A second footpath to the west of Plants Brook will be used as a construction traffic route and occasional maintenance access route, allowing vehicles entering at the access point on Javelin Avenue to reach the proposed balancing pond to the south of the park. During construction, it is estimated that there could be approximately 200 heavy goods vehicles (HGV), plus additional cars and light goods vehicles (LGV), requiring access to the pond for a period of three months whilst soil excavations take place.</p> <p>During construction, the area of land required temporarily will be bound by fencing, however access to the junior football pitch and grassed area will be retained at all times for pedestrians and maintenance vehicles. If access from both footpaths is to be lost during the same period, an alternative access point will be provided from Javelin Avenue.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately three years.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Low: the park will not be required to close and can continue to function for its intended purpose; however construction works will be present for up to three years within a small area of the overall park.
Relevant receptors	Users of the open space and grass pitch; clubs and schools using the pitch.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor(s) to impact	Low: Farnborough Road Park is a well-used (see Section 3.2) and highly valued resource in Castle Vale. During August-May, the pitches are used by two adult teams (Sunday), eight junior teams (Saturday) and five mini pitch junior teams (Saturday). There are alternative open spaces in the local area but none with a comparable provision of facilities. However, the area of the park affected is a small area of the whole park and is therefore of low sensitivity compared to the park as a whole.
Significance rating of effect	Minor adverse not significant: the area of land lost temporarily during the construction period will not cause any significant inconvenience or detriment to the users.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Minor adverse not significant: the area of land lost temporarily during the construction period will not cause any significant inconvenience or detriment to the users.
Impact 2: permanent loss of land	<p>Impact: an area of approximately 5,600m² (11% of the total park) will be required permanently to provide a vehicular access route along the footpath to the west of Plants Brook. The access road will be used on an occasional basis for maintenance works to the balancing pond to the south of the park. Following construction the footpath will become a dual use route for vehicles and pedestrians, and will not be bound by any fencing.</p> <p>Duration of impact: permanent.</p>

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Assessment of magnitude	Negligible: the park will not be required to close and can continue to function for its intended purpose.
Relevant receptors	Users of the open space and grass pitch; clubs and schools using the pitch.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	Low: Farnborough Road Park is a well-used (see Section 3.2) and highly valued resource in Castle Vale. During August-May, the pitches are used by two adult teams (Sunday), eight junior teams (Saturday) and five mini pitch junior teams (Saturday). There are alternative open spaces in the local area but none with a comparable provision of facilities. However, the area of the park affected is a small area of the whole park and is therefore of low sensitivity compared to the park as a whole.
Significance rating of effect	Minor adverse not significant: no significant inconvenience or detriment will be caused to the users.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Minor adverse not significant: no significant inconvenience or detriment will be caused to the users.
Impact 3: temporary significant visual and HGV traffic effects	<p>Impact: visitors of the park will be subject to the following significant environmental effects:</p> <p>Visual: construction activities will be visible from several points across the park during construction, including views of realigned transmission towers in Park Hall nature reserve, construction of the River Tame viaduct and Parkhall Wood embankment and construction of the proposed B4118 Birmingham Road Bridge.</p> <p>HGV traffic: the presence of HGV vehicles travelling through the park is likely to cause disturbance to those visiting the park and have an effect on the character and quality of the park.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately three years.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Medium: two significant residual other environmental effects.
Relevant receptors	Users of the open space and grass pitch; clubs and schools using the pitch.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	High: Farnborough Road Park is a well-used (see Section 3.2) and highly valued resource in Castle Vale. During August-May, the pitches are used by two adult teams (Sunday), eight junior teams (Saturday) and five mini pitch junior teams (Saturday). There are alternative open spaces in the local area but none with a comparable provision of facilities. The effects are relevant to the majority of the Park, the sensitivity of the Park as a whole is classified as high, as it is an important local resource.
Significance rating of effect	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and users' enjoyment of the park as a result of the combination of visual and transport effects.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and users' enjoyment of the park as a result of the combination of visual and transport effects.

2.3 Blenheim Way public open space

Table 3: Blenheim Way public open space community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Blenheim Way public open space
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Open space
Resource description/profile	Blenheim Way public open space is approximately 11,850m ² , located between Blenheim Way and Javelin Avenue in Castle Vale. It includes a play area, youth shelter and grassed areas. The space has even paths running throughout and is well lit. In the centre of the space is a fenced off electricity substation.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary loss of land	Impact: an area of approximately 50m ² (0.4% of the total open space) will be required in the southern part of the site for the removal of a high voltage electrical power line which runs along Blenheim Way. The area of land affected is grassed, and will not affect the play area or youth shelter within Blenheim Way public open space. Duration of impact: approximately six months.
Assessment of magnitude	Negligible: resource will not be required to close and could continue to function as intended
Relevant receptors	Local residents and users of the open space.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor(s) to impact	Low: there are a number of alternative open spaces in the Castle Vale area, including Castle Vale Centre Park and Farnborough Road Park, both of which offer a better provision.
Significance rating of effect	Negligible adverse not significant: the open space will remain open throughout construction and function will not be compromised.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Negligible adverse not significant: the open space will remain open throughout construction and functionality will not be compromised.

2.4 Residential properties - Blenheim Way, Castle Vale

Table 4: Blenheim Way residential properties community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Residential properties - Blenheim Way, Castle Vale
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Residential
Resource description/profile	A group of 10 residential properties located in the south-eastern extent of Blenheim Way in Castle Vale. The properties include the four properties in the eastern corner adjacent to Farnborough Road Park, and six properties located on the southern boundary of Blenheim Way, with rear gardens adjacent to the Dunlop Channel and Birmingham and Derby rail line. The properties located within this study area are semi-detached properties within a suburban estate setting. The properties are bound to the east by Farnborough Road Park, to the south by the watercourse and rail line, and to the north and west by additional residential properties.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary significant noise and visual effects	<p>Impact: ten residential properties in the south-eastern extent of Blenheim Way will be within close proximity to construction activity in both Farnborough Road Park and Castle Bromwich Business Park. The rear gardens of the properties will be adjacent to an area of land required for construction works, which will be bound by temporary fencing approximately 2.4m high. To the south of the Birmingham and Derby line at Castle Bromwich Business Park construction works will include the Castle Bromwich auto-transformer station satellite compound, construction haul roads, the construction of the tunnel portal and demolition works. These works will result in the following significant environmental effects:</p> <p>Noise: significant daytime noise effects for approximately eight months in total will occur due to a range of works, including demolition, site clearance, haul road construction, re-soiling and Dunlop Carrier Channel works. Significant night-time noise effects will occur for approximately one month in total due to the installation of railway protection barrier.</p> <p>Visual: significant visual effects will be expected to the east as a result of views of construction activity within Farnborough Road Park. To the south, views will be expected of the demolition of buildings on the Castle Bromwich Business Park, the construction of a satellite compound and the construction of the tunnel portal.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately eight months in total.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Medium: two significant residual other environmental effects.
Relevant receptors	Residents of these properties.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	High: all residential properties and their occupiers are identified as being highly sensitive.
Significance rating of effect	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the properties as a result of the combination of noise and visual effects.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the properties as a result of the combination of noise and visual effects.

2.5 Berwood Court Care Home

Table 5: Berwood Court Care Home community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Berwood Court Care Home
Community forum area (CFA)	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Community
Resource description/profile	Berwood Court care home is located on Berwood Park to the south of the Castle Vale estate. The home accommodates up to 69 residents, including elderly and dementia patients. It provides elderly care services, including rehabilitation care, and respite care.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary significant noise and visual effects	<p>Impact: Berwood Court Care Home will be located less than 100m north of the construction boundary at Castle Bromwich Business Park. The care home will be separated from the works by the existing Birmingham and Derby line. During construction, the northern part of Castle Bromwich Business Park will be used for works associated with the Bromford tunnel east portal. Nine buildings or structures within the business park will be demolished to accommodate these works. Significant daytime noise effects are expected due to a range of works associated with the proposed east tunnel portal to the south of the care home. Residents of the care home will be subject to the following significant environmental effects:</p> <p>Noise: significant daytime noise effects are expected for approximately seven months due to a range of works associated with the proposed east tunnel portal to the south of the care home</p> <p>Visual: significant visual effects are likely for up to six years due to views of construction activity including demolition of buildings on the business park, the construction of a satellite compound and the construction of the tunnel portal.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately seven months.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Medium: two significant residual other environmental effects.
Relevant receptors	Residents, staff and visitors of the care home.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	High: residents are likely to be particularly sensitive to any changes in environment and could have impaired mobility. Alternative residential care facilities exist in Castle Vale and the surrounding area, although it is unlikely they would have sufficient capacity.
Significance rating of effect	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the care home as a result of the combination of noise and visual effects.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the care home as a result of the combination of noise and visual effects.

2.6 Residential properties - Cadbury Drive, Castle Vale

Table 6: Cadbury Drive residential properties community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Residential properties - Cadbury Drive, Castle Vale
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Residential
Resource description/profile	There are a number of residential properties within this area located along Cadbury Drive, both fronting the road and perpendicular to it. The properties located within this study area are predominantly small rows of terraced properties within a suburban estate setting, representing typical purpose built 1980s homes. The westerly edge of the study area is marked by the row of four terraced properties to the east of Kenrick Croft and the easterly edge by the row of four terraced properties perpendicular to Cadbury Drive and inset from the road.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary significant noise and visual effects	<p>Impact: eight residential properties on Cadbury Drive will experience a combination of environmental effects as they will be within close proximity to construction works at the Castle Bromwich Business Park, which will be less than 100m south of the properties. The properties will be separated from the works by the existing Birmingham and Derby line. During construction, the northern part of Castle Bromwich Business Park will be used for works associated with the Bromford tunnel east portal. Nine buildings or structures within the business park will be demolished to accommodate these works. These works will result in the following significant environmental effects:</p> <p>Noise: significant night-time noise effects will occur for a total of one month, most notably due to the installation of a railway protection barrier.</p> <p>Visual: significant visual effects will be expected as a result of views of the demolition of buildings on the Castle Bromwich Business Park, the construction of a satellite compound and the construction of the tunnel portal. The visual impact also increases due to the removal of some vegetation beyond the existing Birmingham and Derby line to facilitate the construction of the Proposed Scheme.</p> <p>Duration of effect: approximately one month.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Low: two significant residual other environmental effects, for less than six months.
Relevant receptors	Residents of these properties.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	High: all residential properties and their occupiers are identified as being highly sensitive.
Significance rating of effect	Moderate adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the properties as a result of the combination of noise and visual effects.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Moderate adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the properties as a result of the combination of noise and visual effects.

2.7 Gypsy and Traveller site, Tameside Drive

Table 7: Gypsy and Traveller site, Tameside Drive community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Gypsy and Traveller site, Tameside Drive
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Residential
Resource description/profile	Gypsy and Traveller site located adjacent to Castle Bromwich Business Park on Tameside Drive. The site is owned by Birmingham City Council and provides a total of 15 transit pitches. Six of the units on this site are occupied by a single extended family.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: temporary significant visual and HGV traffic effects	<p>Impact: occupiers of the Gypsy and Traveller site will be located within close proximity to the proposed construction activity at Castle Bromwich Business Park. During construction, the northern part of the business park will be used for works associated with the Bromford tunnel eastern portal. Eight buildings or structures within Castle Bromwich Business Park will require demolition to accommodate these works. The estimated construction period associated with the tunnel is six years. Construction traffic routes are proposed on the roads surrounding the Gypsy and Traveller site, on Tameside Drive, Langley Drive and Orton Way. Residents of the site will be subject to the following effects:</p> <p>Visual: significant visual effects will be experienced due to the construction works in Castle Bromwich Business Park including the removal of the pylon, demolitions and the construction of the tunnel portal.</p> <p>HGV traffic: significant transport effects will arise from construction traffic and the movement of HGVs on Tameside Drive, Langley Drive and Orton Way.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately six years.</p>
Assessment of magnitude	Medium: two significant residual other environmental effects.
Relevant receptors	Residents of the Gypsy and Traveller site.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	High: all residential properties and their occupiers are identified as being of highly sensitive.
Significance rating of effect	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the site as a result of the combination of visual and transport effects.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	The area of land required for the Proposed Scheme will include the Castle Bromwich Business Park (including the Gypsy and Traveller site on Tameside Drive) and Hayward Industrial Estate. Proposals will be developed for the reconfiguration of the business park and industrial estate so as to minimise the effects on businesses, residents and social infrastructure and to allow as many as possible to stay in the area. Any such reconfiguration will be subject to discussion with landowners and BCC, and obtaining the necessary planning permission. The land for the construction of the Bromford tunnel east portal, the infrastructure and its associated features will be required permanently.
Residual effect significance rating	Major adverse significant: change to amenity, character and residents' enjoyment of the site as a result of the combination of visual and HGV traffic effects.
Impact 2: temporary visual barriers and reduced accessibility	<p>Impact: the presence of construction traffic routes adjacent to the Gypsy and Traveller site on Tameside Drive, Langley Drive and Orton Way is likely to disrupt residents' access and journeys. The proximity of construction works will also result in a visual barrier surrounding the site.</p> <p>Duration of impact: approximately six years.</p>

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Assessment of magnitude	High: residents will be isolated on a permanent basis (over one year) due to disruption to journeys and the presence of construction works acting as a visual barrier.
Relevant receptors	Residents of the Gypsy and Traveller site.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	High: all residential properties and their occupiers are identified as being highly sensitive.
Significance rating of effect	Major adverse significant: isolation of residential properties.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	The area of land required for the Proposed Scheme will include the Castle Bromwich Business Park (including the Gypsy and Traveller site on Tameside Drive) and Hayward Industrial Estate. Proposals will be developed for the reconfiguration of the business park and industrial estate so as to minimise the effects on businesses, residents and social infrastructure and to allow as many as possible to stay in the area. Any such reconfiguration will be subject to discussion with landowners and BCC, and obtaining the necessary planning permission. The land for the construction of the Bromford tunnel east portal, the infrastructure and its associated features will be required permanently.
Residual effect significance rating	Major adverse significant: isolation of residential properties.

2.8 Bromford Bridge North East

Table 8: Bromford Bridge North East community impact assessment record sheet

Resource name	Bromford Bridge North East
CFA	CFA 25 – Castle Bromwich and Bromford
Resource type	Open space
Resource description/profile	Linear open space covering 7.5ha, located between Chillinghome Road/Bromford Drive and the existing M6 viaduct in Bromford. The space runs from Chester Road in the east to the rear of Cameronian Croft in the west. Bromford Bridge North East provides no additional facilities aside from pathways. The space is used for walking, running, cycling and sitting/picnicking.
Assessment year	Construction phase (2017+)
Impact 1: permanent loss of land	Impact: an area of approximately 10,800m ² (14% of the site) in Bromford Bridge North East is required permanently to allow access rights to undertake strengthening works to an existing gas main beneath the open space. Duration of impact: permanent.
Assessment of magnitude	Negligible: resource will not be required to close and could continue to function as intended.
Relevant receptors	Local residents and users of the open space.
Assessment of sensitivity of receptor (s) to impact	Low: Bromford Bridge North East is a large open space of approximately 74,550m ² with no additional facilities aside from pathways. There are a number of alternative open spaces in the Bromford area with a similar or better provision, including Bromford Bridge South, Bromford Bridge North Linear and Bromford Recreation Ground.
Significance rating of effect	Negligible adverse not significant: the open space will remain open throughout and functionality will not be compromised.
Proposed mitigation options for significant effects	No further mitigation proposed.
Residual effect significance rating	Negligible adverse not significant: the open space will remain open throughout and functionality will not be compromised.

3 Open space survey/public rights of way survey results

3.1 Survey process

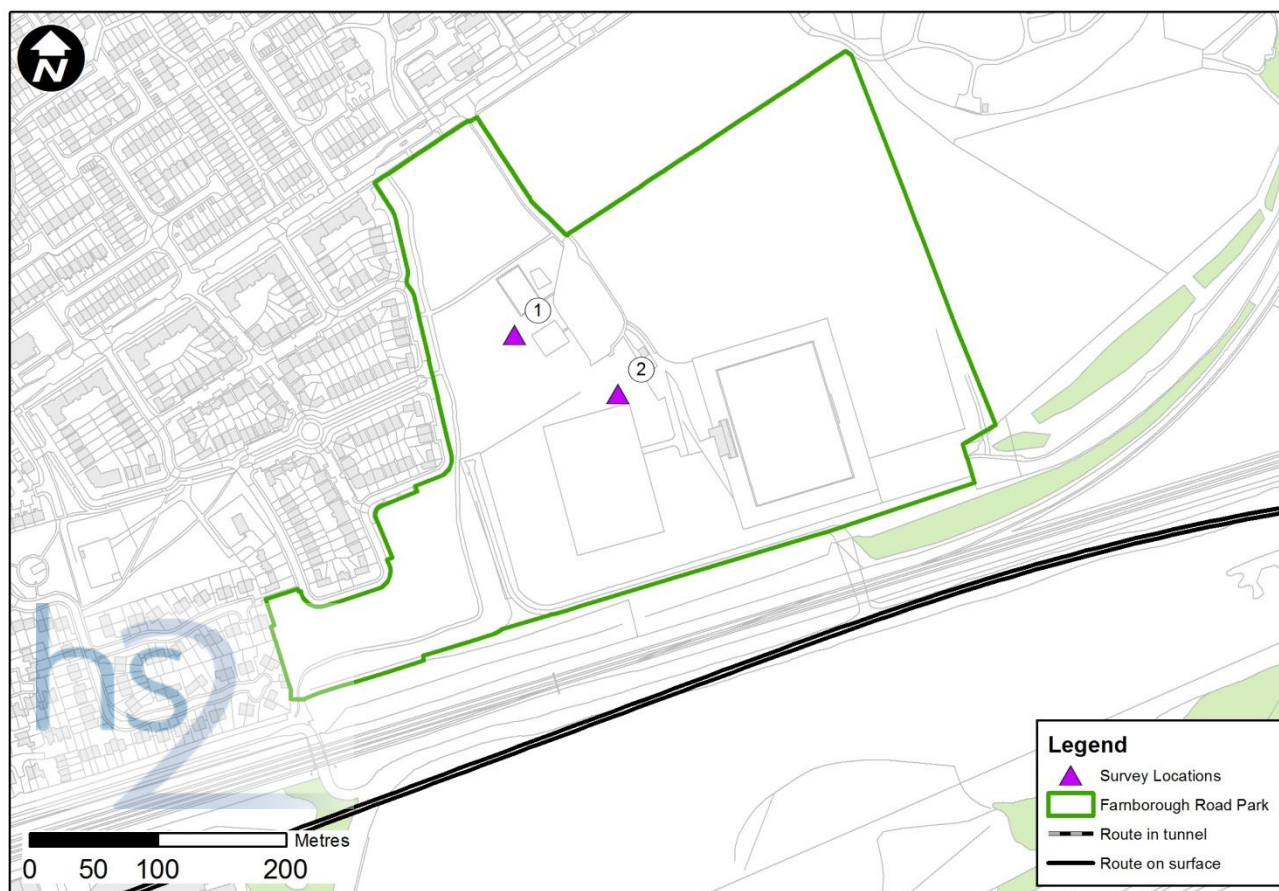
- 3.1.1 Open space surveys have been undertaken to collect primary survey data on the use and quality of open spaces that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme. The information collected helped to identify the sensitivity of the open spaces (resources) and its users (receptors) to potential losses, severance and/or amenity effects.
- 3.1.2 A consistent sample methodology has been used for each open space survey. This included four 15 minute surveys on a weekend day(s) during the summer season of 2012 and four 15 minute surveys on a weekday(s) during the autumn season of 2012. Surveys were undertaken between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 at weekends of the summer season, as this is considered the likely peak usage period. During the autumn season, surveys were undertaken between the hours of 07:00 and 19:00 on weekdays as this was considered the likely off-peak usage period. Weather conditions were recorded during each survey and surveying during adverse weather conditions, including rain and abnormally cold/inclement weather, was avoided.
- 3.1.3 Two survey forms have been completed for each open space. One form includes a count of users and the other provides a summary of the facilities available at the open space. The data recorded on these forms has been aggregated into a single database, which has been used to prepare this community baseline data report.

3.2 Farnborough Road Park, Birmingham City Council, Farnborough Road, Castle Vale

Site overview

- 3.2.1 Farnborough Road Park is located on the south-eastern edge of the Castle Vale residential estate. Castle Vale is within Birmingham, approximately 8km north-east of the City Centre. Birmingham Airport and the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) are located approximately 7.5km to the south-east of Castle Vale.
- 3.2.2 Farnborough Road Park provides children's play space, outdoor sports facilities and parkland. Facilities onsite include:
- a LEAP including climbing apparatus, swings, and a zip wire;
 - outdoor gym;
 - five picnic areas;
 - skate park;
 - seating and litter bins;
 - car parking;
 - large grassed areas;
 - four adult grassed football pitches;
 - two junior grassed football pitches;
 - four mini grassed football pitches; and
 - one floodlit court (currently disused).
- 3.2.3 The site has an area of approximately 15.2ha including all facilities outlined above.
- 3.2.4 The site is currently owned and managed by BCC, although is planned to be transferred to Castle Vale Community Housing Association.
- 3.2.5 The site is in a suburban context, with the Castle Vale residential estate to the north and west. The Project Wagtail Nature Conservation Area and Castle Vale Allotments are to the east of the site, and the Birmingham and Derby line bounds the site to the south.
- 3.2.6 The children's play area opened in 2011 and is of a high quality with a wide range of equipment. The marked playing pitches appear to be well managed. There were however several redundant features which were in poor condition, including a small fenced off area of tarmac which was previously a skate park, and a larger floodlit area of tarmac which was previously a hard court football pitch. Generally the site was well maintained and well equipped. Following transfer of the site to CVCHA, investment will be made in the site, including reinstatement of the hard court pitch as an all-weather 3G astro turf pitch.

Figure 1: Site overview



Relationship between the site and the Proposed Scheme

- 3.2.7 The route of the Proposed Scheme will run to the south of the existing Birmingham and Derby rail line, through the northern extent of Park Hall nature reserve. Farnborough Road Park will be separated from the Proposed Scheme by the Dunlop Channel, the existing Birmingham and Derby line, and Plants Brook.
- 3.2.8 The south-western corner of Farnborough Road Park will be affected by two areas of land required during construction and operation of the Proposed Scheme to accommodate a construction traffic route and occasional maintenance access route. Vehicles will travel down Farnborough Road and Javelin Avenue to reach the park, and then travel down the footpath adjacent to Plants Brook, and the footpath providing access from Cadbury Drive.
- 3.2.9 Two balancing ponds are proposed to the south and south-east of the site; one to the south of Vale Stadium along Plants Brook, and one to the south of Castle Vale Nature Conservation Area.

Survey dates and times

- 3.2.10 Surveys were undertaken at the following times:
- Summer:

- one survey was undertaken on Saturday 8 September 2012, at 11:00 (sunny and warm); and
- three surveys were undertaken on Sunday 9 September 2012, between 12:00 and 17:00 (sunny and hot).
- Autumn:
 - two surveys were undertaken on Tuesday 30 October 2012, between 11:00 and 16:00 (sunny and cool); and
 - two surveys were undertaken on Tuesday 16 November 2012, between 10:55 and 13:30 (cold, some drizzle during the afternoon).

Survey points and zones

Table 9: Open space - survey points, zones and duration of survey period

Name	Location	Survey duration	Frequency
Survey point A - play area	Picnic area adjacent to LEAP	15 minutes	At least 2 hours between surveys.
Survey point B - playing pitches	Car park central to the playing pitches	15 minutes	At least 2 hours between surveys.

Site specific considerations

- 3.2.11 Surveys were undertaken in locations that provided the widest view of the site, where the majority of the facilities on site were visible. The most westerly pitches extend a significant distance west of survey point B, therefore there is potential for users of this area alone to have been excluded from the survey. However, the majority of users in this area also move through the main part of the site, where they would have been visible to surveyors. The usage of the playing pitches has also been confirmed through consultation with BCC.

Key findings and observations

- 3.2.12 The usage shown in the following sections is based on aggregating four 15 minute survey periods to give a usage per hour figure.

Total numbers of users per hour

- 3.2.13 The usage numbers between summer and autumn surveys decreased dramatically at both survey points. The main use recorded overall during summer surveys was children's play. During autumn surveys it was walking at both survey points.

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Table 10: Total number of users at survey point A (play area)

	Informal recreation						Formal/organised active recreation						Numbers of users for all use types by survey date/time
	Walking/dog walking*	Running*	Cycling*	Sitting/relaxing/ picnicking	Child play areas	Other (specify)	Pitch based sports ¹	Court based sports ²	Golf/putting	Water based sports ³	Noisy sports ⁴	Other (specify)	
Summer surveys													
Weekend 8 September 2012 and 9 September 2012	28	0	14	36	102	2 ⁵	0	0	0	0	0	0	182
Autumn surveys													
Weekday 30 October 2012 and 16 November 2012	15	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

*Note: The number of users for walking, running and cycling has been estimated per hour by aggregating the time periods.

Table 11: Total number of users at survey point B (pitches)

	Informal recreation						Formal/organised active recreation						Numbers of users for all use types by survey date/time
	Walking/dog walking*	Running*	Cycling*	Sitting/relaxing/ picnicking	Child play areas	Other (specify)	Pitch based sports ⁶	Court based sports ⁷	Golf/putting	Water based sports ⁸	Noisy sports ⁹	Other (specify)	
Summer surveys													
Weekend 8 September 2012 and 9 September 2012	13	0	4	0	0	0	74	0	0	0	0	0	91
Autumn surveys													
Weekday 30 October 2012 and 16 November 2012	8	3	0	0	0	0	11	0	2	0	0	0	24

*Note: The number of users for walking, running and cycling has been estimated per hour by aggregating the time periods.

¹ For example: football, cricket and rugby.

² For example: tennis, squash and bowls.

³ For example: swimming, sailing, canoeing, fishing/angling and boating.

⁴ For example: go carting, motor cross and quad biking.

⁵ Informally playing football around the play equipment

⁶ For example: football, cricket and rugby.

⁷ For example: tennis, squash and bowls.

⁸ For example: swimming, sailing, canoeing, fishing/angling and boating.

⁹ For example: go carting, motor cross and quad biking.

- 3.2.14 During the summer surveys several organised football matches were taking place on the grassed pitches at Farnborough Road Park. The table below lists the number of people during each 15 minute survey period. It can be assumed that each match took place for an hour or more, and so an average of these figures (74 users per hour) has been used as an indication of a per hour usage figure, as listed in the table above.

Table 12: Total usage of sports pitches during summer surveys

Survey Period	Pitch Based Sports	Notes
Saturday 8 September 2012 11:35	112	This includes one 8-a-side under 10s match and one 9-a-side under 12 match with approximately 50 spectators, along with one 7-a-side under 8's training session with 14 spectators
Sunday 9 September 12:00	29	This included 1 adult 11-a-side match with 7 spectators
Sunday 9 September 14:00	81	This included 3 adult 11-a-side matches with 15 spectators
Sunday 9 September 16:00	72	This included 3 adult 11-a-side matches with 6 spectators

- 3.2.15 Consultation with BCCC confirmed that during August-May, the pitches are used by two adult teams (Sunday), eight junior teams (Saturday) and five mini pitch junior teams (Saturday).

Comparative trends

- 3.2.16 The surveys indicate that the children's play area part of the site is more frequently used than the adjacent playing pitches during the summer surveys (182 and 91 users respectively), with usage fairly equal in the autumn surveys (22 and 24 users respectively). However, the playing pitches are used for organised sporting activities, which cannot be recorded through a survey sample approach. Usage figures were confirmed through consultation with BCC.

Total numbers of users by type of activity

- 3.2.17 Farnborough Road Park is used for a variety of activities. The children's play area is most frequently used, which makes up 32% of the users recorded. Pitch-based sports make up the next most popular use, equating to 26% of usage, with walking or dog walking making up the next most common use with 20% of overall usage. The remaining 22% are split between running, cycling, sitting or relaxing, other informal recreational activities.

Summary of key findings

- 3.2.18 Overall children's play and pitch-based sports were the most common use, with a high usage recorded in the summer. Autumn surveys showed that walking/dog walking was the most common use during that period, making up 49% of autumn uses.
- 3.2.19 The playing pitches are used for organised football activities, which were observed on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September 2012. A survey sample approach is not able to capture the full use of these pitches for organised sporting activities; therefore consultation was undertaken with BCC to determine exact usage. Consultation confirmed that during August-May, the pitches are used by two adult teams (Sunday), eight junior teams (Saturday) and five mini pitch junior teams (Saturday).
- 3.2.20 The peak usage was recorded during the summer weekend survey on 9 September 2012 at 16:00. A total of 159 users were recorded at Farnborough Road POS and play area; 80 people were recorded using the pitches, and 79 were recorded using the play area.

Factors affecting assessment

- 3.2.21 Currently Vale Stadium does not have an affiliated team, due to the collapse of Castle Vale F.C. in summer 2012. If this venue were to regain a home team, it is likely that usage around game times would increase.